

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-10

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O R 170955Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7727

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 15276

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN, DAY AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS,PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. YESTERDAY'S CEASFIRE APPARENTLY HELD RATHER WELL IN MOST OF BEIRUT AREA EXCEPT BAABDA, HADDAD AND, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, AIN RUMANNEH AND CHIYAH. BAABDA, HERETOFORE A MODEL OF MULTI-CONFESSIONALISM, SUFFERED AN INCIDENT APPARENTLY INVOLVING MOSLEMS SHOOTING AT SOME CHRISTIANS IN HADDAD. BAABDA CHRISTIANS THEN ROUNDED UP LOCAL MOSLEMS, DISARMED THEM, BURNT TWO OF THEIR HOMES AND OR VEHICLES, RETAINED THE MEN AND SENT WOMEN TO CITY HALL. I UNDERSTAND FIVE MOSLEMS KILLED, EIGHT WOUNDED IN THIS OPERATION.

2. AS OF MOMENT, DOWNTOWN BEIRUT QUIET BUT CITY IS DEAD. DROVE DOWN VIA AIN RUMANNEH, ASCHRAFIYEH AND PLACE DES CANONS. HARDLY A CAR VISIBLE. ALSO YESTERDAY EYEBALLED GOOD PART OF THE TOWN. WHERE FIRING OCCURRED AT LEAST 50 PER CENT OF THE SHOPS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. PHOENICIA, ST. GEORGES AND HOLIDAY INN
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GUTTED. I ESTIMATE THAT AT LEAST 40 PER CENT OF ROOMS BURNT

OUT, OTHERS SUFFERING SMOKE DAMAGE AND ALL GROUND FLOORS,
BARS, DINING ROOMS, ETC, GUTTED.

3. TRIPOLI, ZAGHORTA AREA CONFUSED. FIVE FAMILIES REPS
TONY FRANGIE, RENE MOUWAD, SIMON BOULOS, FATHER DOUEIHY AND
ASSAD KARAM CALLED ON PRIMIN TO "APOLOGIZE" FOR KILLING
SOLDIERS AND TO SEEK FURTHER MILITARY ASSISTANCE. BEKAA
APPARENTLY QUIET BUT THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DUST-UP
IN ZAHLE. ANOTHER PHENOMENEN WE ARE NOW BEGINNING TO HEAR
ABOUT ARE MAJOR POPULATION MOVEMENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, SERIOUS
INDIVIDUAL TOLD ME LAST EVENING THAT IT IS ESTIMATED UP
TO 40.000 REPEAT 40.000 SHI'A REPEAT SHI'A HAVE LEFT THE
CHIYAH REPEAT CHIYAH REGION OF BEIRUT, WHICH IS NOW
PRACTICALLY TOTALLY POLULATED BY PALESTINIANS. I UNDER-
STAND SIMILAR SITUATIONS HAVE ARISEN IN OTHER AREAS, SUCH
AS NABAA.

4. PATRIARCH KREISH CALLED FOR " NATIONAL CONGRESS".
CHAMOUN AND ARAFAT LUNCHEON POSTPONED FROM YESTERDAY
UNTIL TODAY. DANISH EMBASSY ANNOUNCES IT WILL PROBABLY
BE PROVISIONALLY CLOSED AFTER DECEMBER 19. LUFTHANSA
CANCELS FURTHER FLIGHTS BEIRUT. L'ORIENT LE JOUR
FRONT-PAGES MY CALL ON KARAME YESTERDAY AND LATTER'S
RAISING ISRAELI RADIO THREATS UNDER HEADLINE
"KARAME INFORMS GODLEY OF NEW ISRAELI AGGRESSIVE
THREATS". JUMBLATT ANNOUNCES "CURRENT
CEASEFIRE WILL END BY CHRISTMAS".
GODLEY

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